

AUDIT GOVERNANCE & STANDARDS COMMITTEE

7th July 2016

SECTION 11 RECOMMENDATIONS UPDATE

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Cllr. John Fisher
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Jayne Pickering – Exec Director Finance and Resources
Wards Affected	All Wards
Non-Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

To present Committee with an update of the progress following the Section 11 recommendations from the External Auditors, Grant Thornton.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to NOTE the Action Plan as detailed at Appendix 1.

3. KEY ISSUES

Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no specific implications to this report.

Legal Implications

- 3.2 The Council has a statutory responsibility to comply with financial regulations.

Service/Operational Implications

- 3.3 An unqualified opinion was given for the 2014/15 financial accounts and a qualified opinion on the Value for Money Judgement on 16th December 2015 for the financial year 2014/15. A number of recommendations in relation to improvements in the accounts and the budgetary control of the Council were made within a S11 Notice to ensure that the Council took appropriate action to address the issues identified. Progress has been discussed at the cross party monitoring group together with reports to the last Committee meeting. This report updates Members on the current position.

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- 3.4 Appendix 1 details the action plan as at 20th June 2016. This shows there are no areas of concern in the preparation and the submission of the Statement of Accounts is expected to be by 30th June, the statutory deadline. Officers will update Members at Committee in relation to meeting this deadline.
- 3.5 The final accounts timetable has been delivered with quality checks being made by senior officers within the team. Liaison with officers from CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) has ensured that the template for submission is completed accurately and our officers have been complimented by CIPFA on their use of the new model.
- 3.6 There have been weekly meetings with the team to ensure issues are addressed and there is to be a 'lessons learned' workshop to identify any areas for future improvements.
- 3.7 Officers will continue to work with both Internal and External Audit to ensure the recommendations are implemented as reported.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.8 There are no implications arising out of this report.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

As part of all audit work, auditors undertake a risk assessment to ensure that adequate controls are in place within the Council so reliance can be placed on internal systems.

5. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - S11 Action Plan

AUTHOR OF REPORT

Name: Sam Morgan - Financial Services Manager
E Mail: sam.morgan@bromsgroveandredditchbc.gov.uk
Tel: (01527) 64252 ext. 3790